



This year's VPPA conference drew record crowds to the Red Lion in Pasco to participate in more than 20 workshops.



At the head table for the opening session of the VPP conference are (left to right) Mark Hurliman of Oregon OSHA; Mike Schlender, assistant manager for DOE-RL; Richard Terill, OSHA Region 10 administrator; and Dave Van Leuven, Fluor Hanford president and chief executive officer.

Fluor Hanford hosts highly successful VPPPA conference

Karen Welsh, Fluor Hanford

Fluor Hanford played host to the Region 10 Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association at its annual conference May 6-8 at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco. Region 10 of the VPPPA is made up of safety representatives from various companies in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

This year's conference drew record numbers, with more than 325 people in attendance, up from about 225 last year. "This conference far exceeded our expectations, both in attendance and in the quality of our speakers and workshops," said Dave Jackson, Fluor Hanford director of Occupational Safety and Health. "In addition, with the conference being held here at Hanford, it was a 'win-win' situation for both the Hanford employees and the VPPPA. Our employees were able to attend with its being held locally, and the VPPPA benefited through record attendance at the conference."

Fluor Hanford President and Chief Executive Officer Dave Van Leuven kicked off the opening session and emphasized his commitment to safety. "At Fluor Corporation and at Fluor Hanford, safety is a cornerstone of our corporate values," he said. "In fact, safety is the first of our core values — safety, integrity, teamwork and excellence. Productivity, community image and workplace pride are also positive byproducts of a safe workplace."

Mike Schlender, assistant manager for the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office, also made opening comments, along with Gary McDonough of Georgia-Pacific, Region 10 VPPPA chairman from Toledo, Ore.; Paul Villane, VPPPA executive director; Richard Terrill, Region 10 administrator of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; Peter DeLuca, administrator of OSHA; and Michael Silverstein, assistant director of the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Administration.

John Drebingers was the keynote speaker for the meeting, with a presentation titled, "The impossible is just an illusion!" Drebingers captivated the audience not only with his message, but also through magic and his unique and memorable personal stories to inspire others to work safely.

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Fluor Hanford hosts highly successful VPPPA conference, cont.

“Share the Energy” was this year’s theme. Hanford employees participated as moderators and speakers. Twenty workshop presentations were held throughout the conference. Presenters included Dave Jackson, Rich Kobelski, Jack Griffith, Cliff Ledford, Randy Coleman and Jeff Berneski, all of Fluor Hanford; Steve Maki of Fluor Federal Services; and Donna Robinson of Coastal Safety. Workshops were held on topics such as “Mentoring and Outreach,” “VPP Success in Construction” and “Respiratory Protection.” Two OSHA training courses were offered at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center — “Homeland Defense–Bio-Terrorism” and “Permit Entry Confined Spaces.”

Executive Director Villane had the opportunity to tour HAMMER during the OSHA training sessions and was impressed with what he saw. “This facility is wonderful,” he said. “And holding this conference in the Tri-Cities has given the Region 10 VPPPA association members the opportunity to experience a world-class training center located right here in their own backyard!” ■